



# AGE OF COMMENCEMENT

VERSION / DATE: January 2021  
REVIEW DATE: January 2022  
POLICY MANAGER: Business Manager

## 1.0 RATIONALE

The school starting age for students in NSW is that a child must turn 5 on or before 31 July, and that they must be enrolled in formal schooling by the time they are 6 years of age. There is significant debate around the late starting date and schools in the independent sector have increasingly set 31 March as the cut-off date.

Changing the School starting age to 31 March allows for students to be more able to succeed in a structured learning environment. There is a significant difference between children's maturity especially in the early years of development. The teaching staff has seen over time that the students who are born in the period of April to July inclusive do not always achieve the appropriate milestones and in many instances parents seek to repeat these students. It is not desirable to have students repeating as it can disrupt their social networks.

## 2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

A child must have turned 5 on or prior to 31 March to commence in Kindergarten. Students seeking enrolment into Cottage must be 4 on or before 31 March.

## 3.0 NOTES / PROCEDURES

- Where there is a request for variation the School shall assess the child's school readiness.
- Where students are seeking enrolment beyond the Cottage and Kindergarten years, (ie Years 1 – 12), and may have commenced at their previous school earlier than the St Luke's Age of Commencement Policy, the School will not request that the student repeat, unless it is the parents' intention to do so.